

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VICTOR 00305 061158Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NASA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01  
OPR-02 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 ACDA-07 MCT-01 OC-06  
CCO-00 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPG-02 FAA-00  
MMO-01 PER-01 /102 W

-----061203Z 081927 /43

O 060842Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 390

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES ALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 305

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CASC, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES COUP D' ETAT: SITREP 8 (1145LOCAL, JUNE 6)

REF: VICTORIA 304 AND PREVIOUS

1. VICTORIA STILL VIRTUALLY DESERTED EXCEPT FOR HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVIT  
Y

AT CENTRAL POLICE STATION: I OBSERVED MAXIME FERRARI ( WHO IS ONE OF  
PROBABLE RINGLEADERS OF COUP) THROUGH BINOCULARS FROM EMBASSY  
GIVING ORDERS TO GROUPS OF ARMED, MAINLY BLACK, CIVILIANS.

2. DEATH TOLL IN COUP IS SAID TO HAVE RISEN TO TOTAL OF 5 (3  
POLICEMEN, OLD MEN AND YOUNG BOY CAUGHT IN CROSS FIRE.) NO  
ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE OF CASUALTIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VICTOR 00305 061158Z

3. SPECIAL FORCE (130 MAN PARAMILITARY UNIT) POLICEMEN HAVE  
BEEN ASSEMBLED AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS, REPORTEDLY FOR INTERROGATION  
AND FOR COUP ORGANIZERS TO DISCOVER WHICH POLICEMEN ARE PREPARED  
TO SERVE NEW REGIME.

4. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION FIRST SECRETARY HINTON HAS HAD MID-

MORNING MEETING WITH RENE WHO TOLD HIM A) INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE HAD TO BE CUT AGAIN LAST NIGHT BECAUSE CALLS WERE COMING FROM ABROAD TELLING PEOPLE TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES, B) KENYAN AIRWAYS JUNE 5 FLIGHT CANCELLED BECAUSE "12 SWEDISH SOLDIERS WERE ABOARD" AND C) BRITISH AIRWAYS JUNE 6 FLIGHT WOULD BE PERMITTED TO LAND BUT ASKED THAT SWEDES BE REMOVED IN NAIROBI.

5. FINALLY, ACCORDING HINTON, RENE WAS "EXTREMELY AGITATED" ABOUT REPORT HE HAD HEARD (FROM UNKNOWN SOURCE) THAT UK WAS NOT PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE HIS GOVERNMENT.

6. TWO RECENTLY ARRIVED SOVIET DIPLOMATS EITHER BY ACCIDENT OR DESIGN, WERE APPARENTLY NOT IN SEYCHELLES AT TIME OF COUP. ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM MAURITIUS TODAY.

7. ALL SENIOR EXPATRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE REMAINING AT HOME. IN ESSENCE, ASIDE FROM ESSENTIAL SERVICES (WHICH PRESENTLY BEING MAINTAINED AT ACCEPTABLE LEVEL), GOVERNMENT NOT FUNCTIONING.

8. ALTHOUGH SITUATION PRESENTLY CALM ON MAIN ISLAND OF MAHE, SECURITY SITUATION ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY UNKNOWN. COUP ORGANIZERS CONTINUE TO DISPLAY SIGNS GOVT APPREHENSION, REALIZING PERHAPS THAT THEIR CONTROL FAR FROM COMPLETE. THESE INCLUDE: A) DEMAND ON RADIO THAT ALL POLICE REPORT TO THEIR STATIONS BY 1300) B) ALL FIREARMS BE IMMEDIATELY SURRENDERED C) FIRETRUCKS STILL PARKED ON RUNWAY AT AIRPORT D) CONTINUATION FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD OF CURFEW AND E) RENE'S CONCERNS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VICTOR 00305 061158Z

EXPRESSED PARA 4. (COMMENT: THESE CONCERNS MAY BE WELL FOUNDED AS REGIME'S "SECURITY FORCES" COMPOSED AT PRESENT OF MOTLEY ASSORTMENT OF 200, OR MAYBE EVEN FEWER, IRREGULARS. COOPERATION OF SPECIAL FORCE PROBABLY ESSENTIAL TO MAINTENANCE OF CONDITIONS OF LA AND ORDER AND REGIME.)

9. BRITISH POLICE ADVISORS AND FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE O'BRIEN-QUINN WHO WERE DEPORTED LAST NIGHT TOLD HIGH COMMISSIONER PUGH THAT MOST WEAPONS USED BY ASSAULT GROUPS WERE NOT FROM SEYCHELLES ARSENAL. ONE OF THEM SPECULATED THEY WERE OF CZECH MANUFACTURE. DE-BRIEFING OF POLICE WILL TAKE POSSIBLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN LONDON.

10. INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPENED AT 1100. SCHEDULED TO CLOSE DOWN AT 1300.

11. ALL ANXIOUSLY AWAITING RENE'S MAJOR ADDRESS LATER IN DAY.

MATTSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLICE FORCES, CURFEW  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977VICTOR00305  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770200-0987  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** VICTORIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770685/aaaacwwd.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 90243984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 VICTORIA 304  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2256417  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEYCHELLES COUP D' ETAT: SITREP 8 (1145LOCAL, JUNE 6)  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, CASC, SE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/90243984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009